

Security Information

Office of the General Counsel

Memorandum for the Director's Log

18 June 1953

At the request of Mr. Rabb of the White House, Mr. Houston attended a hearing called by Senator Watkins to discuss the security aspects of S 1917, the Senator's Bill to admit 240,000 escapees, German expelles, Italian, Greeks, Dutch, and escapees from China. Senator Watkins held the hearing alone in executive session, stating that his purpose was to satisfy himself that there was adequate protection in the Act and in the proposed administration of the Act against infiltration of Communists among the immigrants covered. Messrs. McLeod and Alexander represented the Department of State, Mr. O'Connor represented PSB, and G2, CIC, and Immigration were also represented.

An informal discussion covered the screening in Germany in considerable detail and also problems posed by screenings for consular officers in the other areas concerned. Senator Watkins expressed himself satisfied with the police checks by the German police, and Mr. Alexander stated that the present coordination with CIA and the other U. S. agencies and the local police and security forces in the areas concerned would give adequate protection under the terms of the Act.

A new feature of the Act requires each applicant to produce positive information of his bona fides, and this will greatly reduce the number of qualified applicants and ease the investigating problem.

Senator Watkins said the subcommittee will meet next Wednesday or Thursday in executive session to question the agencies on the same security considerations and on the cost of the additional burden imposed on any agencies. It is expected that CIA will be called again at this time.

151

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